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# SMITHILLS SCHOOL

## SUCCESS FOR ALL

Examinations Officer  
Candidate Information



### OUR VALUES



EXCELLENCE



INDEPENDENCE



COMMUNITY



Welcome to Smithills School

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Examinations Officer. This is a wonderful opportunity to join our successful, over-subscribed 11-16 school at an exciting stage of our journey.

We are a large secondary school, a single Academy Trust, situated in the heart of Bolton. As Headteacher I am fortunate to work alongside our talented staff, pupils, families and community partners. Our school is a very special place where we respect individuality, diversity and difference. Every child who joins us is encouraged to achieve and every adult who joins our team is given the opportunity to contribute.

Our values of Excellence, Independence and Community are evident in all that we do. They combine to ensure our vision of 'Success for All' is achieved.

September 2023, two weeks into my headship, the school was judged as requires improvement for Quality of Education and Leadership and Management, but good for Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes. Ofsted commented 'pupils are warmly welcomed and quickly settle into school life', we have 'high aspirations for pupils' achievement' and 'staff feel happy and proud to work' at the school. They remarked that we are on the right track with the changes we are making, we simply need more time to implement and embed them.

Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to developing and nurturing every child, providing the very best standards of education through a strong, knowledge rich curriculum, which is built around our expectations that all pupils will develop their depth of understanding across a wide range of subjects, securing an ambitious education for all. We also offer our pupils a wealth of cultural experiences, broadening horizons and developing self-esteem which provides them with the skills to make positive contributions to society, now and in the future.

We are committed to the continued professional development of all our colleagues and take our responsibility to develop leaders of the future seriously. We are equally committed to staff wellbeing: we provide a package of support to help all colleagues achieve a happy work life balance and we have a thriving wellbeing group that initiates real change in school.

If you are a dynamic, motivated, conscientious professional who has a passion for working with children and young people and you feel you have the skills and personal attributes to work as part of an innovative, energetic and ambitious team, we would love to hear from you.

Carolyn Dewse  
Headteacher



## Why work at Smithills?

As a team, we value every member of staff – from the site team to middle leaders, from teachers to SLT, from canteen staff to teaching assistants, from pastoral staff to IT support. We know that every person on our staff is crucial to the strategic development and the operational work of our school. As such, we promote well-being and prioritise manageable workloads in the following ways:

- SLT are supportive and highly visible around our site
- Teachers have their own classrooms
- We are committed to the Education Staff Wellbeing Charter
- Staff wellbeing is prioritised with free access to our swimming pool, gym, 'Friday football' and all sports centre activities during the week and at weekend
- The Staff Wellbeing Team includes broad representation from teaching and associate staff
- This team meets at least every half term, capturing staff voice and responding with concrete actions
- Teaching staff typically have above the national expectation of 10% of Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time
- Every teacher has a protected Professional Development hour every fortnight
- CPD is a regular feature of our calendar and includes teaching and support staff
- Opportunities for career development are embedded in our structures and systems
- Early Careers Teachers thrive in a supportive and caring environment. They have access to a broad and individualised programme of professional development
- As part of our commitment to continuous professional development all staff are encouraged and supported to undertake further study
- Internal applications for a range of roles are actively encouraged
- Data entry points are kept to a minimum for each year group
- Every department has high quality 5-year curriculum plans in place
- Departmental marking policies have been designed to actively reduce marking workload
- All teaching staff have an iPad/laptop
- The correction system is centralised
- Lunch duties are paid
- Reprographics is centralised

Most of all, though, we offer something which a bullet point list cannot capture: our staff and students are friendly and fiercely loyal to our school. Our school is a community and we are proud of that.

**'Leaders at all levels carefully consider the impact of any changes that they make to school systems which may affect the workload and well-being of staff'.**

OFSTED  
September 2023

We encourage you to come and see our school for yourselves. Please contact the Headteacher's PA, Chris Shaw on 01204 842382 ext. 104 or [c.shaw@smithillsschool.net](mailto:c.shaw@smithillsschool.net) to arrange an appointment. A member of SLT will be only too happy to show you around.

**Closing date for applications: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 9am**

**Interview date: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**



SMITHILLS SCHOOL  
SUCCESS FOR ALL

## Examinations Officer

**Salary: Grade F £28,770 - £32,076 pro rata (actual estimated salary £23,907 - £26,665)**

**35hrs per week Term Time Only plus 10 days – additional days to be worked in accordance with exam deadlines /results**

**8.00am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday ( ½ hour unpaid lunch break)**

**Permanent Position**

### Job Description

**Responsible to:** Deputy Headteacher

**Responsible for:** Invigilators

#### **Purpose of the role**

- To be responsible for managing the effective and efficient administration of external examinations in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations (on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies ) and/or awarding body rules for exams administration in a consistent and secure fashion, thereby helping to maintain the integrity of the assessment process
- To be responsible for managing the effective and efficient administration of internal examinations/assessments (example GL, Cats, PPE's)
- To support the Head of Centre in ensuring that the centre is compliant with the JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements in order to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments at all times
- To act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments
- To closely liaise with key stakeholders (external and internal) to ensure exams administration processes are strictly followed and key deadlines met
- To ensure examinations are conducted in accordance with the regulations
- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff, supports the head of centre in taking all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations have taken place

#### **Main duties and responsibilities**

##### **Before examinations**

###### Planning

- Maintain and develop systems to manage and coordinate all aspects of the exams administration process
- Research and understand qualifications and how they are assessed
- Identify and access relevant support available from external stakeholders (Awarding bodies/JCQ/Network group/The Exams Office etc.)



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- Comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions and keep abreast of developments/changes/updates
- Effectively use JCQ and awarding body online tools where required (e.g the Centre Admin Portal (CAP), secure extranet sites)
- Oversee (as the main administrator) and manage appropriate access rights for relevant internal stakeholders using JCQ and awarding body online tools
- Manage own time effectively to ensure key tasks are undertaken and external key dates and deadlines are met (Achieved by creating and working to an annual exams plan)
- Communicate clear internal deadlines and processes for gathering/sharing exam-related information from/with relevant internal stakeholders
- Brief candidates/staff/parents/carers on examination regulations and requirements
- Actively support the head of centre in co-operating with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation or an unannounced visit
- Annually confirm the information required by the National Centre Number Register (as administered by OCR on behalf of the JCQ) and informs of any changes to centre status
- Manage arrangements to receive, check and store confidential question papers and examination material safely and securely at all times and for as long as required in accordance with the regulations
- Support the head of centre in managing potential conflicts of interest by informing the awarding bodies to timescale for each examination series and recording the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected
- Contribute to the creation/review/update of exam-related policies/procedures as required by the regulations and accurately reflect working practices in the centre
- Support the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) (or equivalent role) in implementing examination access arrangements and reasonable adjustments for eligible candidates (processing approval applications and requesting modified papers by the published deadlines)

#### Entries

- Observe the awarding bodies' published terms, conditions and processes for the registration or entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations/assessments
- Register or enter candidates for an examination or assessment in accordance with the awarding bodies' published procedures and published deadline for that qualification
- Implement processes and liaise with relevant internal stakeholders to gather correct entry information to internal deadlines implementing strategies to avoid late (or other penalty) fees
- Maintain required identifiers for each candidate entered for an examination/assessment and enter candidates who are on roll at the centre as internal candidates
- Verify the identity of all students that are entered for examinations/assessments
- Effectively use internal and external IT systems to submit and manage awarding body registration and entry data
- Liaise with Finance to ensure fees are paid as instructed and at the time specified by the awarding bodies
- Submit any applications for transferred candidate arrangements in accordance with the awarding body requirements
- Liaise with relevant internal stakeholders to ensure final entries/registrations that have been submitted to an awarding body are regularly monitored, submitting timely changes (amendments/withdrawals) to ensure candidates take the correct papers at the correct time and enabling awarding bodies' to deliver accurate results to the centre

#### Pre-exams

- Recruit, train, update and manage a team of invigilators





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- Manage the arrangements for the timetabling, rooming, seating, resourcing and invigilation of examinations in accordance with the regulations
- Effectively resolve exam timetable clashes and manage overnight supervision arrangements (where arrangements may be required after all other options have been explored) in accordance with the regulations
- Ensure all candidates are notified of their examination entries and the dates and times of their examinations/assessments in accordance with the regulations
- Ensure all candidates are aware of the JCQ and awarding body information and regulations regarding the conduct of their examinations/assessments in advance of these taking place
- Confirm relevant internal stakeholders complete administrative tasks associated with centre assessed work in an accurate and timely manner in accordance with the requirements of awarding bodies and moderators
- Support the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) (or equivalent role) in implementing examination access arrangements or reasonable adjustments for eligible candidates (appropriate arrangements for rooming, resourcing, facilitation, invigilation etc.)
- Effectively manage arrangements for the secure storage and dispatch of examination scripts for marking

## **During examinations**

### Exam time

- Effectively manage the conduct of examinations in accordance with JCQ regulations and/or awarding body rules
- Ensure all exam accommodation is prepared in accordance with the requirements
- Inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service of any alternative site that may be used by the centre to conduct timetabled examinations
- Effectively deploy fully trained invigilators to exam rooms according to the requirements
- Manage unexpected issues/irregularities which may affect the conduct of examinations
- Support the head of centre in investigating and reporting cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with an examination as required by the JCQ and awarding bodies
- Manage emergency access arrangements for eligible candidates as the need may arise during exam time
- Maintain the confidentiality and security of candidates' responses and dispatch scripts according to the requirements
- Submit to the published timescales, relevant follow-up reporting to awarding bodies' in relation to the very late arrival of candidates for examinations and applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria

## **After examinations**

### Results and post-results

- Ensure candidates and relevant internal stakeholders are aware of processes, key dates and deadlines in relation to the issue of results and the arrangements for post-results services
- Plan, prepare for, and manage the restricted release of results and the distribution of provisional statements of results in accordance with JCQ regulations and/or awarding body rules
- Effectively use internal and external IT systems to access and manage awarding body results information
- Understand awarding body results indicators and provide support for relevant internal stakeholders in accessing results reports/analysis tools
- Effectively use external IT systems to administer post-results services in accordance with the regulations to the published deadlines



SMITHILLS SCHOOL  
SUCCESS FOR ALL

- Manage and administer the receipt, distribution and retention of examination certificates according to the regulations

#### Other

- Undertake training, update or review sessions as required
- Undertake other duties appropriate to the grade and responsibilities of the role as may be required by the head of centre/SLT responsible for examinations, for example:
  - the preparation for and conduct of internal examinations/assessments under external examination conditions
  - other exams-related administrative tasks

The roles and responsibilities in this job description may change and/or evolve in a reasonable manner over time.

The post holder may reasonably be expected to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of responsibility that may be allocated from time to time.

### Person Specification

CRITERIA	QUALITIES
<b>Qualifications and training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths at grade 4 or above</li></ul>
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working in a school/college or administration environment</li><li>• Managing the administration of examinations</li><li>• Working with confidential and/or sensitive materials</li><li>• Managing other members of staff, such as invigilators</li><li>• Managing time and workload to meet deadlines</li><li>• Using a management information system (MIS)</li><li>• Working with data sets</li><li>• Working with awarding bodies and regulatory organisations, e.g. JCQ</li><li>• Complying with statutory regulations set by external bodies</li></ul>
<b>Skills and knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High standard of communication (verbal and written)</li><li>• Polite and effective interpersonal skills</li><li>• Competent with common IT systems, e.g. Microsoft Office, MIS</li><li>• Data analysis</li><li>• Time management and planning</li><li>• Ability to work flexibly and quickly under pressure</li><li>• Ability to work across multiple projects and deadlines</li><li>• Ability to follow policies and procedures set by the school and external agencies</li></ul>



SMITHILLS SCHOOL  
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<b>Personal qualities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organised</li><li>• Honesty</li><li>• Ability to keep calm under pressure</li><li>• Ability to work well in a team, and independently, demonstrating initiative to suggest ideas to make improvements</li><li>• Work with a high degree of accuracy</li><li>• Work without close supervision</li><li>• Effective interpersonal skills working with a range of internal and external stakeholders</li></ul>
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### **Safeguarding**

Smithills School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful candidates are subject to an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Current or previous employers will be contacted as part of the verification process pre-appointment checks if the applicant is short-listed. Information requested will include:

- Disciplinary offences relating to children, including any which the penalty is “time expired”
- Whether the applicant has been the subject of any child protection concerns
- The outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure

Any discrepancies or anomalies in the information provided or issues arising from references will be taken up at interview.

We may use internet searches using information held in the public domain to perform due diligence on candidates in the course of recruitment, in terms of suitability for the post applied for. Where we do this, we will act in accordance with our data protection and equal opportunities obligations.

C. Dewse  
Headteacher